Dear (your MP)

Human rights organisations under threat by Israel

I am writing to call on you urgently to protest the decision by the Israeli government that threatens the work done by a number of respected Palestinian human rights organisations which aim to protect civilians living under military rule. The suggestion that organisations like Al Haq or Defence for Children International are ‘terrorist’ is ludicrous–it redefines the meaning of that word to render it useless. These organisations point to (and seek to end) the violations against men, women and children who have no other protection. They are important in sending information to the international community on what is going on; they are also providing free legal aid to people who have been abused.

This move is an attempt to silence human rights defenders who are so much needed in a context of serious human rights violations. The dangerous behaviour of Israel towards the Palestinian population living under Israeli occupation has been reported on by international organisations including Human Rights Watch, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Figures from B’tselem (Israeli human rights organisation) and Palestinian national statistics point to the killing of 10,000 Palestinians by Israeli settlers and army in the 20 years between 2000 and 2020 – while there are many other areas of very serious concern – huge numbers of woundings and injuries, imprisonment without trial, restrictions on the right to movement, denial of family life and the protections that mothers and children should have. Palestinian people need the honest voices and the support of human rights organisations.

The UK is not slow to criticise the closing of human rights when implemented by dictatorships and countries which are not its allies. This is to urge you, urgently, to do all you can to prevent this closing of Human Rights organisations from happening in the case of Israel.